

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, May 27, 1907, with transcript

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL TO MABEL (Hubbard) BELL Northampton, Massachusetts. Wednesday, May 27, 1907. Mrs. A. G. Bell, 1331 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D. C. My darling Mabel:

Arrived here shortly before two o'clock this afternoon, pretty well tired out. Had dinner immediately and then lay down for a nap leaving instructions not to be disturbed before half past five. As I had mentioned the fact that I intended to spend the evening after supper at the Clarke School — the people here called me at seven. Went right off to sleep at half-past two and did not waken until seven. After supper, and feeling as bright as a button, went up to the school and found Miss Yale, Mr. Sanborn, Judge Strickland and Mr. Hammond. We talked of the pressing need of a new school-building, and I told them that your mother had given me permission to inform members of the corporation that she had provided in her will for a bequest of \$50,000 to the Clarke School for the erection of a building as a memorial to your father. I told them it was your mother's personal desire that this Memorial should be put up in her life-time, but that Charlie and all of the family, including myself, objected to your mother sacrificing any of her income. She should have the full enjoyment of her income during her life-time. She was all ready to sacrifice herself, but we, all of us, objected. Such was the matter in a nut shell.

There was then some conversation upon the point whether it could be possible for the Clarke School to have the 2 benefit of the donation now, so as to relieve the congestion of the school, the corporation guaranteeing the payment of interest to your mother during her life-time. In this way, it was suggested, the necessities of the school could be met. Your mother could have the satisfaction of seeing the Memorial put up during her life-time

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and the objections of the family could be overcome by the payment of the interest to your mother.

I expressed the opinion that some such arrangement would be practicable, but that, as I was not a business man, it would be better to consult Charlie upon the matter. Mrs. Hubbard was all ready to do anything in her power to help the school, and that, so far as I was concerned, I should not object, so long as your mother's income was not reduced.

It is probable that some member of the Board of Trustees may visit Washington in a few days to talk over the matter with Charlie. You better show this letter to Charlie, and to your mother, to prepare them for some communication upon the subject.

I shall spend the day tomorrow (Thursday) at the school. In the afternoon at 3:30 P.M. I address the Normal Class and the teachers of the school upon the subject of MY FATHER, and his life-work.

In the evening I go to Amherst to visit Prof. and Mrs. Grosvenor; and on Friday proceed to Boston.

3

I am now engaged in thinking up my Address upon my father. I only wish it could be taken down by a stenographer so that I could afterwards put it into shape for publication.

Your loving husband, Alec.